Serial No.: 09/658,522

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims have been amended as follows:

1-21. (Canceled)

22.   (Currently Amended) A scalable call processing node comprising:

    (a)   a link interface module (LIM) for receiving SS7 call signaling messages and for identifying an SS7 call signaling message relating to establishment of a call as requiring processing by a call server and for selecting a call server for processing the SS7 call signaling message;

    (b)   a first call server module for receiving the SS7 call signaling message from the LIM, for selecting a media gateway through which a call associated with the call signaling message will be routed the first call server module storing connection status and call state information regarding calls in progress in a media gateway and for performing media gateway call management functions for establishing the call in the media gateway, thereby functioning as a primary call server; and

    (c)   a second call server module [[for]] storing the connection status and call state information regarding calls in progress through the media gateway and functioning as a backup call server, wherein the second call server module is adapted to switch operation to become the primary call server for the call in response to failure of the first call server module.

23.   (Original) The scalable call processing node of claim 22 wherein the switching from backup to primary call server module occurs in less than one second.

-3-

24.   (Original) The scalable call processing node of claim 22 wherein the switching occurs without transfer of the call state information from the first call server module to the second call server module.

25.   (Currently Amended) The scalable call processing node of claim 22 wherein the call state and connection status information includes at least one call table for storing call-related information.

26.   (Previously Presented) The scalable call processing node of claim 25 wherein the at least one call table includes an endpoint table for storing endpoint information for the media gateway.

27.   (Original) The scalable call processing node of claim 26 wherein the at least one call table includes a connection table for storing connection information for connections in the media gateway.

28.   (Original) The scalable call processing node of claim 26 wherein the at least one call table includes a state table for storing call signaling state information for endpoints in the media gateway.

29.   (Currently Amended) A method for performing call server module switchover in a scalable call processing node in response to call server module failure, the method comprising:

(a)   operating the first call server module in a primary call server mode and operating the second call server module in a backup call server mode, wherein operating the first call server in a primary call server mode includes ~~selecting a media gateway through which a call is to be routed~~ storing call state and connection status information regarding calls in

-4-

progress in a media gateway and performing media gateway call management functions for establishing [[the]] a call in the media gateway;

(b)   replicating the media gateway call state and connection status information regarding calls in progress through the media gateway to the second call server module;

(c)   detecting failure of the first call server module; and

(d)   in response to failure of the first call server module, switching the second call server module to operate in the primary call server mode.

30.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29 wherein storing call state information includes storing parameters extracted from a sequence of ISUP messages required to set up or tear down a call.

31.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 29 wherein operating in the primary call server mode includes formulating instructions for setting up or tearing down the call and forwarding the instructions to a transporter module for translation and transport to [[a]] the media gateway.

32.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 29 wherein operating in the backup call server mode includes storing the media gateway call state and connection status information without forwarding call processing messages to intended destinations.

33.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 29 wherein switching operation of the second call server module to the primary call server mode includes switching the operation within a fraction of one second.

-5-

34.   (Previously Presented) The scalable call processing node of claim 22 wherein the link interface module and the first and second call server modules each comprise printed circuit boards having an application processor and a communication processor mounted thereon, the printed circuit boards being connected to a common bus and communicating with each other via the bus, thereby allowing subsecond switchover between the first and second call server modules.

35.   (Currently Amended) The scalable call processing node of claim 22 comprising a transporter module operatively associated with the primary call server module for generating a media gateway control command and forwarding the media gateway control command to the media gateway for setting up in the call in the media gateway.

36.   (Currently Amended) The scalable call processing node of claim 22 wherein performing media gateway call management functions includes selecting endpoints in the media gateway for the call ~~and storing media gateway connection and call state information regarding calls in progress in the media gateway~~.

37.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29 wherein replicating the media gateway call state and connection status information to the second call server module includes sending the media gateway call state and connection status information from the first call server module to the second call server module via a common bus interconnecting the first and second call server modules.

-6-

38.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 29 comprising generating media gateway control commands based on the information selected by the first call server module and forwarding the media gateway control commands to [[a]] the media gateway.

39.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 29 wherein performing media gateway call management functions includes selecting endpoints in the media gateway for the call and storing media gateway connection and call state information regarding calls in progress in the media gateway.

-7-